



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • www.vef.gov • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

Van-Toi Vo, Ph.D.
Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE

Board of Directors

Malcolm Gillis, Ph.D. – *Chairman*
Zingler Professor of Economics
Rice University

Earl Blumenauer
U.S. Congressman

Trung Dung
Founder & Chairman
BlueKey Services

Frank Jao
President and CEO
Bridgecreek Development Company

Marilyn M. Pattillo, Ph.D.
Professor of Clinical Nursing
University of Texas, Austin

Henry M. Paulson, Jr.
U.S. Secretary of Treasury

Joe Pitts
U.S. Congressman

Condoleezza Rice, Ph.D.
U.S. Secretary of State

Margaret Spellings
U.S. Secretary of Education

David Vitter
U.S. Senator

Richard J. Wall, J.D.
Managing Partner
O'Donnell, Waiss, Wall & Meschke

Jim Webb
U.S. Senator

VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION SENDS FELLOWS AND VISITING SCHOLARS TO ATTEND TOP U.S. UNIVERSITIES

Contact: Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director
Phone: 84-4-936.3670

Ha Noi, May 28, 2008 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to introduce its new 2008 cohort of Fellows and Visiting Scholars. In the fall of 2008, forty (40) new Fellows will travel to the United States to begin graduate studies at 29 top universities and seven (7) new post-doctoral Visiting Scholars will undertake professional development programs at leading U.S. universities during the upcoming academic year 2008-09.

The 40 new VEF Fellows will be pursuing graduate degrees in multiple fields of science and technology, including agriculture, basic sciences, computer science, engineering (including biomedical, chemical, civil, electrical, environmental, industrial, mechanical, and petroleum engineering), geography, mathematics, and public health at top U.S. universities (see list below). With this new cohort, VEF will have placed a total of 270 Fellows in 66 leading U.S. universities as of fall 2008.

In addition to this new group of Fellows, the second cohort of Visiting Scholars will pursue post-doctoral training programs at leading U.S. universities for 6 – 12 months, focusing on various fields in science and technology, including agricultural science, agronomy, biology, and physics and mathematics. Including the new cohort, VEF will have awarded grants to 19 Visiting Scholars.

Dr. Toi Vo, Executive Director of VEF, said, “We are delighted to see growing interest in VEF educational exchange programs demonstrated by applicants from the southern part of Vietnam. Indeed, 59% of our new Fellows and 57% of our new Visiting Scholars originate from this part of Vietnam. The gender ratio has also improved with 41% of the new Fellows being women. We consider these results a significant success in our efforts to balance our programs.”

To prepare the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their transition to the

United States, VEF provides a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) to be held from June 3 - 8, 2008. The extensive PDO includes a 2 - day Team Building program at Bach Ma National Park, Hue City, followed by two-days of lectures and presentations on immigration and visa matters, health issues, travel requirements, cultural adaptation, academic expectations, and other useful information. The University of Danang, Danang City, is hosting the lecture portion of the event. This is the first time that VEF has holding its PDO in the center of Vietnam.

For more information, please visit the VEF website at: www.vef.gov

###

U.S. UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED BY 2008 VEF FELLOWS

1. Clark University
2. Columbia University
3. Cornell University
4. Duke University
5. Indiana University
6. Johns Hopkins University
7. Michigan State University
8. Oklahoma State University
9. Princeton University
10. Purdue University
11. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
12. Texas A&M University
13. University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
14. University of California, Berkeley
15. University of California, Davis
16. University of California, San Diego
17. University of Florida
18. University of Houston
19. University of Illinois at Chicago
20. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
21. University of Massachusetts at Amherst
22. University of Michigan
23. University of Missouri at Columbia
24. University of Pennsylvania
25. University of Southern California
26. University of Texas at Austin
27. University of Texas at Houston
28. University of Utah
29. University of Washington